

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Gillette, George A.
[Rochester, NY]

1923-1937

September 28th, 1923

George A. Gillette, Esq.
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

I want to thank you very much
for the Rochester Numismatic Associa-
tion medal with your portrait on it.
Mr. Newell handed this to me the other
day, and we are very glad indeed to in-
clude this in our collection.

Mr. Newell sailed last Saturday
and is already in France.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
REAL ESTATE
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N.Y.

PHONES
HOME, 5642 STONE
BELL, 5869 MAIN

January 15/24

/Howland Wood Esq.

Dear Mr Wood: Mr J. Bauer and I are going to sail
on Frank C Clark's Mediterranean trip sailing from N.Y. Feb. 2
I only know of one coin dealer Camessa's of Naples We visit - Cairo
Naples, Rome probably Milan, Munich, possibly Dresden
Munichburg Frankfurt on Main, Stuttgart, Paris,

If you know any dealers in these places would
appreciate it very much if you could give us
their addresses

Yours fraternally
Geo A Gillette

Paris Fenardent Ferns

4 Rue Louis

Louis Ciani

54 Rue Taitbout

Clement Platt

19 Rue de Petit Champs

Julius Florange

19 Rue de la Bourse

~~Rome~~ Etienne Bourgen

7 Rue Drouot

Frankfurt Adolf & Anton

Niedemann 55

Adolf Altmann

Mäurer Landstr. 49

Rome PP Santamaria

84 Via Condotti

Lugano Intergal R. Roth

Ville Geneva à Besen

Rome

Jandalo & Tarozzi

Frankfurt Joseph Hornbuss

Bahnhofplatz 2

Munich

Otto Helbing

Munich Beyerstr 20/1

Stuttgart

Wilhelm & Dr. Wilhelm Meyer

Sally Rosenburg
Burgstrasse 9-11
Frankfurt
Burgstrasse 9-11
Frankfurt

Curator
Augustine Str 4
Dresden A
C. B. Thiemel

January 17th, 1924

George A. Gillette, Esq.
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

I am glad to hear that you and Mr. Bauer are going to have such a fine trip, and I trust that you will both pick up many nice things.

I am enclosing, herewith, a list of some of the dealers of whom we know. If you hear of any others while you are abroad, I should be glad if you will let us know.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

October 7th, 1925

George A. Gillette, Esq.
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

I showed the coins from Seltman to Mr. Newell
and he cares for none of them, consequently I am
returning them intact to you by registered mail.
Thanks very much for sending these to us for Mr.
Newell to see. I much appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

October 5, 1927

Mr. George A. Gillette,
1016 Wilder Building,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I have managed to get at your coins awhile ago and attributed only a few. Most of these were Indian native states copied from Mogul coins and we have very little data concerning these. In fact, no one knows much about these coins. I am really sorry I cannot help you out any better.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

October 11, 1927.

Howland Wood,
Curator A. N. S.,
Broadway & 156th. St.,
New York City.

My dear Sir:-

I received your favor of the 5th. instant
and on Saturday the Hindoo rupees etc. which you
have examined and forwarded by parcel post.

I am grateful to you for your work in my
behalf in attributing the same. Lord Grantley's lots
and labels got considerably mixed before delivery to
me and I certainly was unable to unscramble the mess.
My Parthian silver and the Hindoo copper which you
have not returned probably are not worth taking up
any more of your time and attention. Please return
same at your convenience. Again thanking you for your
help to me in these orientals and hoping to meet you at
our next A. N. A. convention at Rochester where I hope
to show you how much a beginner can do in miscellaneous
collecting in a short period, I remain.

Yours fraternally,

GAG:ED

Geo. A. Gillette

October 13, 1927

Mr. George A. Gillette,
1016 Wilder Bldg.,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The coins I returned are only those that Mr. Newell handed over to me. I suppose he still has the other coins. He is still in the country and as he gets in only about once a week, he has had very little time to work on these.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

September 17, 1929.

Holland Wood, Esq.,
American Numismatic Society,
156 Broadway,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Holland:-

At a mail auction conducted by J. Mayfield on
September 9, 1929, I bid off the inclosed pieces, lots
numbers 275, 291, 292 and 293, of which I am suspicious.

Lot No. 275 was catalogued as Tabago old Mexican
2 R with hexagonal hole, Wood 80, Rare; Lot No. 291 was
triangular piece of Spanish 8 reals for West Indies; Lot
No. 292 counterstamped S West Indies?; Lot No. 293, Segment
of French 5 francs, counterstamped C. I. Comoro Is?

I would like your opinion whether these are genuine
pieces or modern fabrications. Please answer and oblige.

Yours very truly,

Geo. A. Gillette

GAG:ED

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

September 25, 1929.

Mr. Howland Wood,
A. N. S. Museum,
Broadway and 156th. Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Howland:-

I sent you, last week, four lots of alleged
West India bits, which I suspected to be modern
fabrications, which J. Mayfield of your City bid off
on my account at his September 9, 1929 sale.

Please let me know whether you received the
same and, if so, what your charges are for your opinion
in the matter and return same to me and oblige.

Yours very truly,

Geo. A. Gillette

GAG:ED

20th September, 1929

Mr. George A. Gillette,
1016 Wilder Building,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

Your two letters are at hand. It is only today that I have been in to the Society, having been laid up with pneumonia.

I do not mind what the value of the dollar you have sent on. No. 293, stamped C I on a French coin is new to me. It may be perfectly all right and probably is, but I have not the faintest idea what it is for.

No. 275 does not look very good to me. The die to punch this hexagon out should be in one piece. This looks as if it were done by six blows of a chisel.

No. 292. I doubt very much if it ever saw the West Indies, as Prussian money did not circulate there, and the piece is also of base silver and had no circulation outside of Germany.

No. 291. is probably genuine but there is nothing rare about it. Dollars were cut into quarters almost everywhere 75 or 100 years ago. Either in this country or in the West Indies not having a stamp it has no significance.

Very truly yours,

Curator

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

October 5, 1929.

Howland Wood,
Curator A. N. S. Museum,
156th. Street and Broadway,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Howland:-

I was very glad to receive your letter concerning the alleged West India Bits.

I was sorry to hear that you have been ill and I am glad to hear that you have recovered.

More than one-half of the stuff that I got from Hayfield's sale was suspicious. There was one among them that I got for seventy-five cents that I think was really worth the money. It was a Mexican ~~Peso~~ ^{Counter-} or 8 Real piece, stamped with a punch or dye Texas 8 Real, which I had never seen before.

I acquired, at the last Elder Sale, the book "Old Roman Coins", by Harold Mattingly, which I think is very interesting and up to date treatise and I have read it so far with great interest.

I am very grateful to you for making the examination and as you have made no charge please accept my thanks and I am enclosing twenty-five cents for the same.

With Best regards to Yourself & Messrs. Newell & Son
fraternally
R. A. Gillette

October 8th 1929

Mr. George A. Gillette
1016 Wilder Bldg
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

I think you have a good thing in that
counter stamped Texas 8 Real piece. I have never
heard of this. Could you send me a rubbing of it?

Yours very truly,

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Curator.

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
REAL ESTATE
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Oct 14 1929

PHONES
HOME, 5642 STONE
BELL, 5869 MAIN

Howland Wood Curator
156 + Broadway N. Y. City

Dear Howland:

I received your request
a rubbing of the Mexican Peso Counterstamped
"Texas & Reals" I mislaid the coin & just
found it to-day and have attempted making
rubbing of the same at which I am
quite inexperienced I hope you can decipher
something from them, The Counterstamp
is quite plain on the Liberty Cap side of the 1834
Peso. The Eagle side was not marred by the
stamping nearly as much as usual. I will
send the coin if you wish to investigate further

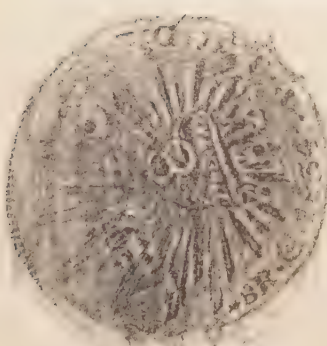
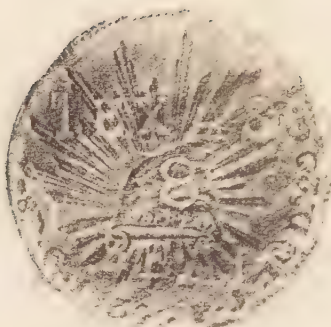
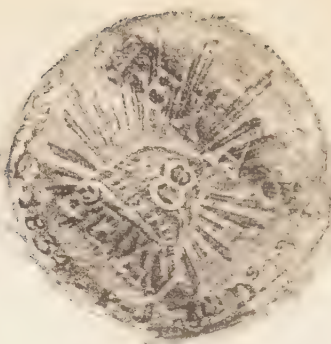
Yours very truly

Geo A Gillette

English & American
Signs



Two circular stamps
on the same side



GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

November 14, 1931.

Mr. Edward T. Newell,
President of the A. N. S.,
Broadway between 155th. and 156th. Sts.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Brother Newell:-

I was very much gratified to receive your favor of November 7, 1931 and a day or two afterward the coins which I sent you to pass on and attribute.

I was very much pleased to learn that the Aureus of Vespasian is O. K. I doubt very much whether Mr. Lange bought the Spintria on your recommendation as it was in a miscellaneous lot, which I do not think he could have examined very closely himself. I note with satisfaction what you say about the little bronze statuette which I had been led to believe was a Roman Senator. If it is one of the Roman Household Divinities it will be much more interesting for me to treasure.

I am extremely grateful to both you and Mr. Wood for the careful and painstaking work which you did in attributing said coins.

I have been with Brother Bauer on two official visitations, one to the Buffalo Club and one to the Detroit Club very recently. While there we examined hurriedly the collection left by Mr. Allan, a Detroit member now deceased. I bought some interesting Mexican pieces, which were not familiar to me. He had Howland Wood's excellent book on the Mexican Revolutionary Series and quite a large collection which was attributed according to said monograph, which he was ~~holding~~ ^{about to} sell as one lot. Mr. Bauer and I bought mostly Hard Times Tokens and Half Cents of which Mr. Allan had a wonderful collection.

I appreciate your Courtesy in suggesting that you are willing to make further attributions for me and when I get another curious lot I will gladly take advantage of your offer. I am enclosing 20¢ in stamps, the cost of registering my package.

With best regards to yourself and Howland, I am

Yours Sincerely,

Geo A Gillette

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

November 4, 1933.

Edward T. Newell and Howland Wood,
Corner Broadway and 156th. Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Brothers *in Numismatics*

I am addressing this letter to both of you because the contents of a cigar box of coins and medals, which I am sending you, are partly Ancients and partly Spanish and Chinese.

The first ten lots in the first row are a recent shipment of Hessein Sallam of Cairo through George Bauer. The other Egyptians in the same row are also mostly from Cairo, but procured years ago. All I ask you to do is to name the Emperor on the envelope. I have guess^{ed} at a great many of them myself, but I am not sure of the attribution.

These are followed by some Roman First Bronzes in the second row and also a lot of coins and medals of Spain and her colonies.

In the third row and also the two on the top are coins and medals which are both "phoney" and "funny". You need not take much trouble to attribute them. They are sent to you for your intellectual amusement and entertainment rather than to cause you hard study. *If you recognize the forgers of the phony or counterfeit, I will keep you informed, confidentially & privileged.*

The fourth row, all but the two last, contains mostly Chinese silver. If what I have stated on the envelope is wrong, please correct it. I sent the ten envelopes containing coins of the Province of Kirin, which I recently got, mostly through Barney Bluestone's sales. I consider them quite interesting, but I do not suppose they are worthy of attribution.

I note Mr. Wood has written in the Numismatist recently about most of the modern Chinese coins or medals of Generals and Emperors as being ~~not~~ either ^{not} genuine or issued without the authority of the Chinese Government. If Howland will kindly answer some of the questions on the envelopes that will be sufficient.

In Barney's two last sales, I purchased mostly B.B. Bills of Cincinnati, Ohio, which are quite interesting and some of them very old. Some of them contain representations of Roman heroes like Cincinnatus, and I think are largely from the Ezekiel collection.

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

-2-

I regret very much that we recently lost our Sixth President of the R. N. A., Fred B. King, who has been confined to his bed, partially paralyzed for a long time. Brother L. J. Woolsey is confined to the house by reason of his wife's being quite dangerously ill and requiring his constant companionship. Freeman C. Allen recently died suddenly. He was not a member of the A. N. A. or the R. N. A., but he was greatly interested in Rochester bills. His grandfather, James Freeman Clark being President of the Monroe County Savings Bank away back in the fifties.

Oscar Ravel of Marseilles, France, wrote me last month stating that he was about to write another book on Corinth and her colonies and he asked me to send him wax impressions of some of my coins saying that Mr. Noe had referred him to me. I made out a complete list of my ⁹³didrachm coins of Corinth and her colonies and mailed it to him stating that most of them were catalogued in Dr. Hirsch or R. Ratto's auction sales catalogues and that I had no apparatus for taking impressions.

You need not take much time or trouble in working over this cigar box of material. The first Bronze of Augustus, Rev. Altar of Lyons was recently sold to me by E. H. Schwing, who was born in Rochester and has been a Chiropractic Doctor in Paris for some time. I have a first Bronze of Tiberius with the same reverse, which has been carefully "holed", which I got from Feurdent Freres of Paris, which cost me 100 francs. Mr. Schwing said the enclosed First Bronze of Augustus cost him \$25.00 in Paris. He complained that at the recent sale of his coins he suspects the dealers framed the sale so that his material brought very little compared with what it cost him. This does not speak well for Americans sending over any coins there to sell at the present time.

If it would be more convenient for you to send the box of coins back by express, please place a moderate value on same and have charges follow, but if you send them by parcel post, I will remit the cost to you.

Thanking you in advance for the trouble I am causing you, I am

Yours very truly,

Geo A. Gillette

GAG:ED

November 17, 1933.

Mr. George A. Gillette
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

This is to acknowledge receipt of the package of coins for Mr. Newell and I to look over for you. These came last week. When they are done we will return them.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

January 8, 1934.

Mr. George Gillette
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

By express collect we are returning to you the coins sent in November and which we have at first attributed. As there was a large bunch of these and we have been very busy in recent months we could not accomplish this attribution before. You will note there are two pieces that Mr. Russell will like to have.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

January 11, 1934.

Howland Wood, Curator,
c/o The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th. and 156th. Streets,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:-

Tuesday I received by express the package of coins, curios and medals, which I sent for you and Mr. Newell to attribute in your respective lines.

I feel very grateful to you both for the work which you have done in looking them over and taking the pains to attribute them.

I wish that some one would straighten out the Chinese tangle. Some of the Generals seem to be playing the role of District Dictator or Ward Heeler for different parts of China under Mandates and Orders from different powers and Politicians. Canton was all stirred up over ten years ago when I was there in 1923. Dr. Sun Yat Sen had commenced his Revolution some time before and he had soldiers fighting around Canton and its suburbs and the Temples were filled with Chinese soldiers, which made them look like unclean stables instead of Holy places. He diverted so many men into his service that there were not sufficient Coolies to carry our sedan chairs, which is the best way to get around three quarters of Canton. When Mr. ~~Gutter first commenced to import~~ ^{or medals} ~~these coins they were sold at~~ very high prices and we received them as something very choice and paid what looks now to be enormous prices. I hope you or some one interested in the Modern Chinese will write some Book or Treatise that will be a guide to all of us collectors, who now seem to be in the dark.

I notice you say that Mr. Newell would like two of the coins that were enclosed in a separate envelope in the express package. I am very glad to let him have them with my compliments which I consider a very small remuneration for the splendid assistance he has given me.

Wishing you and him both a Happy New Year, I am

Yours very truly,

Geo. A. Gillette

GAG:ED

January 12, 1934.

Mr. George A. Gillette
1016 Wilder Building
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

Like you, I hope someone
some day will straighten out the Chinese
Republican issues. There are so many fake
issues even from the mints that only one on
the spot could do this work intelligently.
Also, many of them are simply commemorative
medals rather than coins. Some are patterns
and others are fakes, pure and simple. Not
only the presidents but those generals that
had a mint under their jurisdiction struck
coins. I handed Mr. Newell the two coins
and he will write you later. I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

HW:JG

Curator

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Herland Wood

A N S

Broadway & 156 St

May 8 '35

Dear Herland:

I picked up at our Club
Auction last evening a French 5 Franc piece of Napoleon
as premier Consul A N. 12 Counterstamped on the bust
lowest part of bust E. D. H. also same " " Reverse
E. D. H. under the word. Frances. Is this an American Stone Card
or a foreign one? Please answer in Enclosed postal
free opinion on same & oblig

Yours very truly
Geo A. Gillette

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Howland Wood
Curator A.N.S.
152nd & Broadway N.Y. City

June 24/35-

Dear Howland

I recently acquired at a Western auction sale a Brass token of Guatemala larger than our Silver Quarter containing Head to right, back of Head of Rufino Barrios, in front 1923 & Cinco Pesos Republica de Guatemala Br. AL. is this a rare token?

Please answer on enclosed post card & oblige.

We just lost Bro L. J. Woolsey in his 73rd year

Your Bros Bauer & myself are to act as numismatic appraisers with power to dispose of his collection we start to-morrow on our duties

Yours very truly Geo. A. Gillette

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

December 10, 1936

Howland Wood,
Curator A. N. S.,
156th. Street & Broadway,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Howland:-

I have decided that I ought to be getting rid of my collection while alive and, if I try to dispose of all under my personal direction, I would have to be allotted more than the Biblical span of life. Yet I cannot refrain from making bids at sales of such as my old friend, Charley Markus held Nov. 28, 1936 by M. H. Bolender, whose vivid descriptions in two cases at least misled me into bidding on the two enclosed Lot 604 "1723 Jetton, two archers support crown etc. Frossard No. 1 excessively rare". It looks to me like a modern re-strike of Leroux 254 A. I supposed I was adding something really Canadian and old and rare. I had no Frossard and could not identify it.

I find it a duplicate of a West Indian coin which I bought at a Shulman sale for \$1.75 and therefore not excessively rare.

The other was "Lot 641 B. 914 F. McDermott's card fine except a few small nicks etc.". I have my serious doubts after comparing with plates in my Canadian books that is genuine. I did not have any of this coin and if genuine I want it.

As to my dues, I know I am back as well as in most of the clubs etc. to which I belong, but I am hopeful that real estate will some time become more real to me than at present. In the meantime to show somewhat how I appreciate what you and Mr. Newell have done for me, I am enclosing \$5.00 check to show that my intentions are good and I hope soon to ~~prove~~ them better.

*Please return by air mail, need not insure
find enclosed 6¢ stamps therefor*

Yours very truly,

George A. Gillette

GAG:ED

December 12, 1936

George A. Gillette, Esq.,
1016 Wilder Bldg.,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette:

The McDermott card I consider perfectly genuine. I do not want to pass on the French jeton. It is Frossard #1. To me it looks old and original. Examination under a glass makes me think it is struck from a worn die and one that has become slightly rusted. Frossard's illustration of this piece is from exactly the same die in the same state, that is, showing slight signs of rust as on your piece. Of course I do not know whether Frossard's illustration was from an original or not. If it was not for these rust marks I would say your piece was an original. If not an original, a very early restrike; therefore I do not want to pass on this piece.

Your air mail letter came after your second letter which contained the check, showing the regular mail in this instance beat the airplane mail. I beg to acknowledge receipt of the check for \$5.00 for your 1935 dues.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

GEORGE A. GILLETTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1016 WILDER BUILDING
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

E. J. Newell & Howard Wood June 21/37

Gentlemen:

I enclose 2nd notice of
Associate Membership dues for \$5.00 &
am enclosing check for same, am sorry that
I cannot pay up in full I am still interested
in Coins and am grateful for the assistance
you have given me whenever I called for same
I hope that someday my real estate in
in which I am buried, will revive then I will
do better. I have sold many coins to pay taxes
they are still better than my real estate. Will try
to go to Washington Convention
Yours very truly
Geo A. Gillette

June 22, 1937

Mr. George A. Gillette,
1016 Wilder Bldg.,
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gillette: -

I have your letter enclosing check for \$15.00,
and we are crediting you with 1936 dues.

We see Bauer occasionally and trust that we will
have a glimpse of you before very long.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks